

FORT MONMOUTH ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND PLANNING AUTHORITY

SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SSAC)

MINUTES ON PUBLIC MEETING, February 05, 2008

The FMERPA Social Services Advisory Committee (SSAC) public meeting took place on February 05, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at the FMERPA offices located at 2-12 Corbett Way, Eatontown, N.J.

In attendance were **Committee Members**: Rose Estephan, Rick Harrison, Lynn Miller, and Ana Dowland; **FMERPA Staff Member**: Diane Canterbury. **Public** in attendance: Tom Mahedy, Philip Welch, and James Barbo (NJ Dept of Corrections).

1. Open/Welcome/Introductions - Rose Estephan - Rose welcomed everyone and acknowledged the public in attendance.
2. Review of Prior Meeting Notes: All attendees reviewed. Any modifications were provided and will be updated appropriately on the FMERPA website. **Public Comments**: a. Tom Mahedy expressed that he would have liked to have seen his statement referencing the Pinebrook housing in the 11Dec07 meeting report. Tom Mahedy expressed that the Pinebrook housing could be looked at as part of the NOI submissions. Rose Estephan responded that this issue had been addressed previously and that the buildings do not meet state requirements. Also, that NOI submitters that may have addressed those buildings in their NOIs understand the NOI process where they could be provided with a solution other than Pinebrook. This determination for NOI submitters will occur during final evaluation, BRAC Special Counsel Review, and overall approval of a finalized Plan by the FMERPA Board. Tom Mahedy respectfully disagreed with the rationale provided. b. Tom Mahedy also commented on the undercount for Homeless Veterans and expressed that he also wanted that included in the minutes and that both he and Scott Snyder (via Senator Pallone's office) commented on it. Diane Canterbury responded that she believes that Tom did comment on the alleged undercount of Homeless Veterans, although she believed that Scott commented with a question such as: Is there a venue that can confirm the undercount? - Tom Mahedy agreed.
3. Discuss SSAC Homeless Provider Visits: Members of the Social Services Advisory Committee and FMERPA staff gave a synopsis of the site visits of 15Jan08 (Easter Seals), 22Jan08 (AHA), 25Jan08 (Vetgroup), 28JAN08 (Family Promise). Rose Estephan stated that SSAC members have visited all nine of the NOI Submitters that responded to the FMERPA letter dated 17SEP07. The sites that were visited were Family Promises, Vetgroup, HabCore, Affordable Housing Alliance, Center of Asbury Park, 180 Turning Lives Around, O.C.E.A.N. Inc, Easter Seals and Homes for All. Rose Estephan included another submitter (County of Monmouth) where SSAC members visited on a separate tour pre 17Sep07.
4. Discuss SSAC pending revisits to Homeless Providers: Members of the Committee are planning to revisit HabCore and 180 Turning Lives around. Dates are pending scheduling. **Public Comments**: Tom Mahedy questioned the fairness of the evaluation process being that there were

four NOI submitters that did not have a site visit. Rose Estephan stated that all Submitters did not respond to the 17SEP07 letter and FMERPA staff had reached out to all to insure that all submitters received the letter. The NOI submitters that did not respond must have a reason why they did not respond. Diane Canterbury responded that the site visits do not have an impact on the evaluation of the NOI's. The site visits provided members with a better understanding of homeless populations. Tom Mahedy understood but, still believed that the remaining four submitters should get a chance to have a site visit from SSAC members. Lynn Miller suggested that Tom Mahedy contact them to see if they would like to receive a site visit. Tom Mahedy agreed. Diane Canterbury stated to Tom Mahedy that he is doing this on his own and that it is appreciated and that the site visits are for SSAC members only. Diane Canterbury also stated should Tom receive a positive response for the site visits to provide the NOI submitter with Diane Canterbury's contact information. Rose Estephan stated that this needs to be accomplished within the next two weeks based on timeline. Diane Canterbury informed Tom that she did not want to give out telephone numbers although, should he have problems with contacting the four NOI submitters she would do her best to assist. **07FEB08 NOTE:** FMERPA received voicemail from Tom Mahedy stating that he could not find the addresses of the remaining four submitters and called for assistance. Diane Canterbury spoke w/ Rose Estephan and the decision was to have Diane Canterbury reach out one more time to those submitters. Diane Canterbury called all four submitters; she spoke w/two of the submitters where the points of contacts were not available and would return her call and she left voice mails with the other two.

6. Point in Time Survey Discussion w/ Public Comments: Rose Estephan shared her experiences with the Advisory Committee on volunteering for the Point in Time survey. She explained that she went through a training process for interviewing attendees and listed the items and services that were made available. Lynn Miller thanked Rose Estephan for her efforts. Lynn Miller explained that there are three methods used for the point in time survey which are: actual site locations (Red Bank, Asbury Park, Long Branch, and Freehold Borough) that had a facility for walk-ins, a dispatch team that physically visited Muster Zones/Known areas of the homeless, as well as, agencies that are noticed to record numbers of homeless. Lynn Miller stated that she visited all site locations where approximately 800+ walked in (there seemed to be a surge at all locations between the hours of 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.), that a team of 10-12 clerical staffers had 24 hours to input data obtained; that report should be available sometime in mid March 2008 from the Corporation of Supportive Housing who forwards the data to HUD. Lynn Miller said that there were approximately 100+ people working on the project; half were county employees and the other half were volunteer professionals. Rose Estephan informed the committee that some of those that walked in were illegal immigrants and that she had to explain that the information they were providing would not get them in trouble, some were fearful of receiving flu shots but were able to receive should they chose to do so, and that some were seasonal workers and could not afford to pay rent until March and their landlords worked with them on this. Diane Canterbury questioned if that made them homeless - the response from all attendees was no. Phil Welch also stated that some immigrants are living in homes with a lot of people because they cannot afford rent. This is also a case for homelessness. Rose Estephan and Diane Canterbury shared that if a home is being occupied by the owner and/or

family members, overcrowding in a house is not illegal. Phil Welch stated that St. Anthony's assists immigrants. Tom Mahedy queried the questions on the applications and if 20 people in a house was considered homeless. Lynn Miller responded that data is gathered through county efforts but not interpreted. Lynn Miller stated that the Lunch Break in Red Bank may not be used in next year's survey because it is not preferable to postpone their daily lunch service. This is pending, although other locations are being looked at and she asked if anyone had suggestions to please provide to her. A discussion took place for the 2009 survey and its expansion. Expansion will take place if there are more volunteer professionals that sign up and available county employees to be at each site.

7. Where are We / Path Forward: Rose Estephan gave a synopsis of where the SSAC is in data gathering and the steps that will be taken for evaluation, although this will be discussed at the next SSAC meeting. **Public Input:** Phil Welch stated that the Monmouth Advocacy Team will be meeting on 21Feb08 to discuss similar issues and those members of the team will be in attendance to share data discussed. Diane Canterbury responded that the data could be used as a resource for data going into the path forward. Phil Welch wanted to insure that this was agreeable; Rose Estephan responded favorably.

8. Schedule Next Meeting - The next meeting is scheduled for 11Mar07 at 3:00 p.m. at the FMERPA offices located in Eatontown, NJ.